

IASC GRG MEETING, 30 May 2017

Meeting Chair

**Caroline Rusten, UN Women**

Jina Krause-Vilmar, HIAS

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| Participants |
| Kathleen Hunt, CARE International  | Hilde Sjobo, UN OCHA |
| Mendy Marsh, UNICEF  | Fabrizia Falcione, UNFPA  |
| Benard Muinde, IASC Secretariat  | Zola Dowell, OCHA Surge Capacity Section |
| Kristen Valasek, UNHCR | Merrin Waterhouse, GenCap Advisor |
| Julie Lafreniere, Oxfam | Qi Song, UN Women |
| David Coffey, UN Women  |  |

1. Update and discussion on the IASC Gender Policy and Gender Accountability Framework: consultation process; Update on the IASC Gender Handbook (UN Women)

UN Women updated GRG on the IASC Gender Policy Update and Accountability Framework (AF). After the Expert’s Group Meeting in February, the Policy Update consultants have developed a summary report for the IASC’s consideration on key issues that need to be included in the updated version of the policy.  They also developed an outline of what the new policy will look like.  Currently, the consultants are in the process of conducting consultations where they will look for inputs from relevant IASC stakeholders, including the global clusters, the IASC subsidiary bodies and Humanitarian Coordinators. In addition, UN Women has recruited a consultant to develop the accountability framework, based on the updated policy.  Similar to the policy update process, summary and outline documents of what the AF will look like have been developed for the IASC’s consideration and comment.  The AF consultant will also take part in the consultation process.  It is planned that the process will be completed by the last quarter of 2017.

UN Women and Oxfam provided an update on the IASC Gender Handbook revision. Funded by ECHO, UN Women and Oxfam are updating the IASC’s Gender in Humanitarian Action Handbook, which is a key guidance resource for IASC. UN Women and Oxfam have led a comprehensive global and field level consultation process and has worked with numerous implementing agencies (UN and non-UN) to develop content for the updated handbook. The prototype has just been field tested in Ethiopia and Afghanistan, by UN Women’s implementing partner Oxfam. Based on these findings, the Handbook will be finalized and launched in the final quarter of this year. The printed handbook will also be translated from English into French, Spanish and Arabic and will be supported by a more comprehensive on-line version. GRG is considering hosting a launch event for the Handbook during UN GA. CARE suggests that GRG should engage the EU at the top level for the launch event.

Action points:

* GRG to engage with EU for the Handbook launch event. David Coffey to contact EU and also propose arrangements for a launch during UNGA co-hosted by EU and the GRG.
1. Status and update of the Gender and Age Marker (GAM) (GenCap Support Unit)

GenCap Project briefed GRG on the GAM. Currently the GAM is being finalized, with a coding system of 0 to 4. The first stage of the GAM piloting has been completed, and starting from July 2017 the second round of piloting will be initiated in 9 selected countries

The main benefits of the tool include:

* The GAM supports good gender equality programming.
* The age component deepens but does not replace gender analysis.
* The tool supports Reflective Action and provides advice on how to improve the project.
* The GAM is easy to use, and uses language easily understood by humanitarians.
* The tool incorporates developments in community engagement and Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) to support improved opportunities for women’s participations and equal satisfaction with assistance received for both males and females.

Coordination mechanisms will evolve to accommodate commitments from the World Humanitarian Summit. The GenCap Project will use the upcoming expansion to evolve alongside the developing Grand Bargain, New Ways of Working, changing HPC, Localization Marker, Community Engagement and Protection Mainstreaming, etc.

The tool currently does not allow for financial tracking, and it was made clear based on earlier discussions that the GAM cannot do financial tracking (this is based on extensive earlier discussions), rather it is a tool for improved programming. GRG members discussed the need for a separate but interlinked process to establish a financial tracking mechanism. UN Women, UNFPA, and OCHA volunteered to take on the task of reviewing existing financial tracking mechanisms. UNHCR suggested that GRG look at existing mechanisms, e.g. the SWAP reporting on financial tracking and involve the existing SWAP focal points in each agency[[1]](#footnote-1).

The GenCap project will provide materials related to GAM, and will also hold a Webinar to help GRG members to have a better understanding of the tool.

Action points:

* GenCap Project to provide GAM related documents, as well as to hold a Webinar. Qi Song to follow up with Merrin Waterhouse, Zola Dowell and GRG members to organize the webinar.
* UN Women, UNFPA, and OCHA to review existing financial tracking mechanism.
1. Update on the IASC WG and Principals meeting: issues of relevance to the GRG (IASC Secretariat)

Benard Muinde, on behalf of IASC Secretariat, updated GRG on the IASC WG and Principals meeting held in April, and the proposal by UN Women for IASC membership. The meeting did not have any specific discussion on UN Women’s membership application per se, but rather focused on the following issues:

* Strengthening the IASC against the backdrop of an increasingly complex operational environment
* Rising expectations post-WHS
* New positioning and reform of the UN system
* The need to promote diversity and inclusivity among other trends

The value of all subsidiary bodies was recognized, including their role in facilitating engagement in IASC initiatives by a wide range of partners. Generally both the IASG WG and the IASC Principals meetings were positive on the need to continue the following engagements:

* Strengthen partnership with diverse actors
* Engage with the broader agenda and initiatives of the UN SG and beyond
* Leverage the IASC collective voice, for strategic communications
* Support the New Way of Working
* Bring closely together the policy and operational aspects to effectively respond to field needs

Benard briefly highlighted two upcoming meetings planned as a follow-up to the outcome of the April meeting namely, the Ad Hoc WG meeting on the New Way of Working in July 2017 and the joint IASC WG and EDG meeting in October 2017.  He further noted that a ‘light touch’ review of the Subsidiary Bodies was under consideration, however no major impact was foreseen for GRG.

GRG inquired on UN Women’s application for full IASC membership. Benard replied that the expansion of membership was postponed, until there is a clearer vision for IASC. He noted, in addition to UN Women, a request from NEAR Network (an NGO consortia) was also postponed. GRG highlighted the potential added value of UN Women being a member of IASC to ensure sustained coherent representation of gender issues.

While the ad hoc and regular meetings calendar is publicized on the IASC website, Benard agreed that the IASC Secretariat will continue to share information with the GRG Co-Chairs. He also advised GRG to leverage its products (such as the Handbook) and the Gender Champion role of ASG/DERC, when appropriate, to inform the discussions.

Action points:

* IASC Secretariat will continue to share information on planned ad hoc, regular meetings with the GRG Co-Chairs
* GRG to continue to engage with ASG/DERC Mueller
1. GRG workplan: status on implementation

GRG went through the AWP to update and strategize on the implementation. The discussions are mostly captured by the attached AWP with notes document. Besides, below are the major points discussed:

* For the ESOSOC side event, GRG would present the topic of Global Compact for Refugees. UN Women Geneva Office has proposed a side event on Gender Inequality of Risk. UAE has shown interest to host or sponsor a gender related event. It is very likely that ECOSOC Secretariat will request all the gender related events to merge into one, due to limited slots for side events. GRG members noted that it is difficult to squeeze all these different topics in 1 event in a coherent way, and gender deserves a better representation at the ECOSOC side event, and have decided to check if it is possible to be granted more than 1 event slot. GRG will also engage UAE to weigh in for this effort.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* GRG will continue its efforts to bring GRG and GenCap Project closer.
* GRG will need to find a way to influence the language of a series of SG reports and GA resolutions, such as SG’s Report on Effective Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance Efforts, and the GA Humanitarian Omnibus Resolution, etc.

Action points (besides those that are already included in the updated AWP document):

* David Coffey to request for one additional ECOSOC side event on gender, and if this is not possible, coordinate with the Geneva team to include the GRG perspectives on the Global Compact on Refugees as part of the other gender side event
* GRG to coordinate to provide inputs to SG reports and GA resolutions
1. After the meeting, UNHCR further shared with GRG Secretariat its view on this topic: For HCR and potentially other agencies, what might be really helpful is to make available a consultant to work together with interested agencies to support an analysis of their existing budget structure and propose how to track gender, as each agency has its own system and opportunities/challenges. Some agencies already have systems in place while others don’t and could use targeted support. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Shortly after the GRG meeting, GRG Secretariat got the firm confirmation from ESOSOC Secretariat that the side events are fully booked, and it is not possible to be granted additional event. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)